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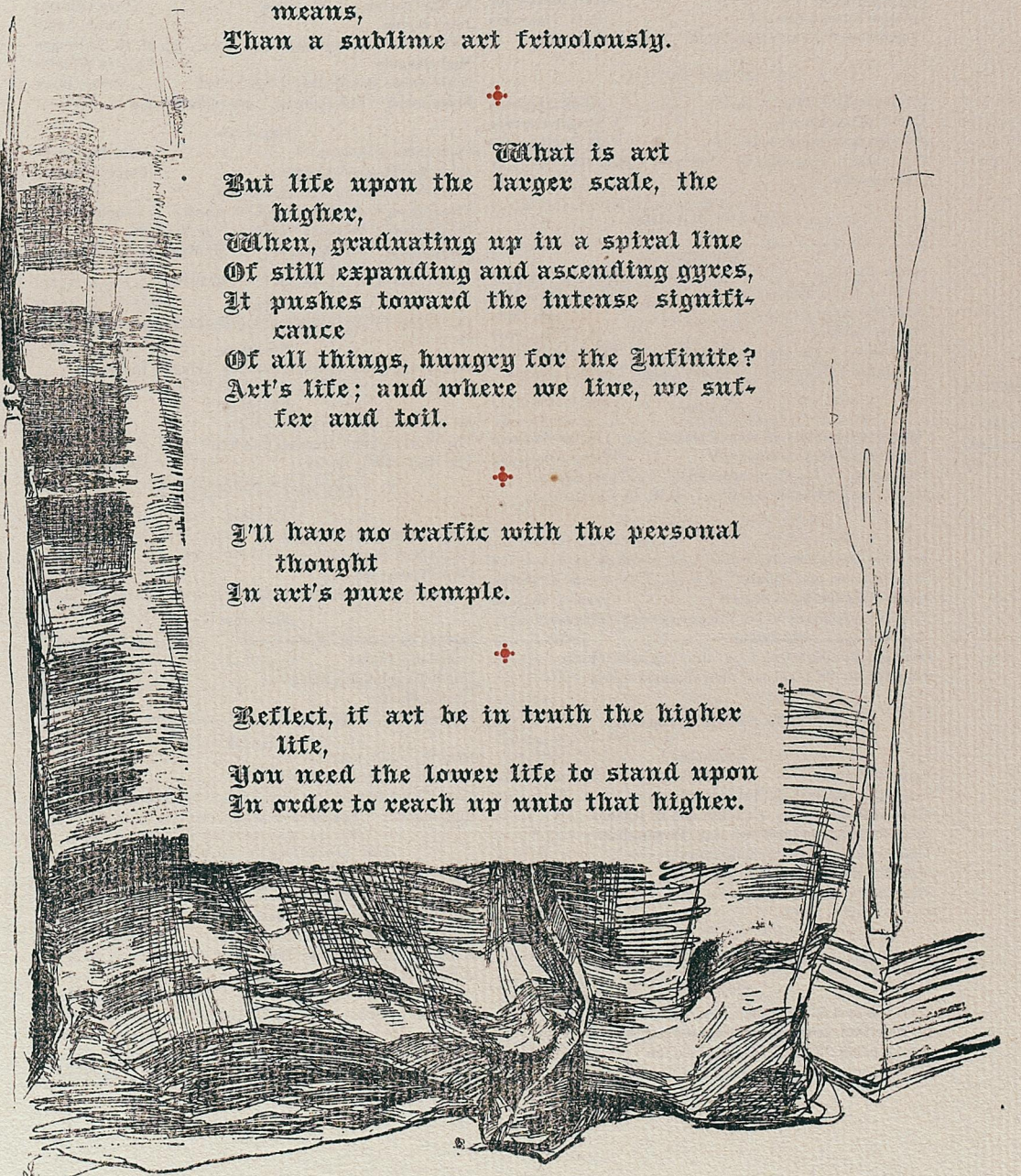
Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Better far
Pursue a frivolous trade by serious means,
Than a sublime art frivolously.

What is art
But life upon the larger scale, the higher,
When, graduating up in a spiral line
Of still expanding and ascending gyres,
It pushes toward the intense significance
Of all things, hungry for the Infinite?
Art's life; and where we live, we suffer and toil.

I'll have no traffic with the personal thought
In art's pure temple.

Reflect, if art be in truth the higher life,
You need the lower life to stand upon
In order to reach up unto that higher.



H. Madox
Apr. 8. 93